

I oppose loosening the rules designed to promote and protect diversity of media ownership. These rules were adopted to ensure that the public would receive a diverse range of viewpoints from the media, and not simply the opinions of a handful of media conglomerates.

Ben Bagdikian, former Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley and star reporter/editor at the Washington Post shows clearly that media monopolies lead to a drastic decrease in diverse opinions needed for a Democracy. His book "Media Monopoly" published in 2000 warns us about the incredible danger of sources of information being in few hands. In his sixth edition preface, xx-xxi, he states that "That [Disney] power is so concentrated, ubiquitous, and artful that, to a degree unmatched in former mixtures of entertainment, it dilutes influences from family, schooling, and other sources that are grounded in real-life experience, weakening their ability to guide growing generations. ... As the dominant corporations' increasing global scale enlarged their importance in the stock market, Wall Street analysts and leading investment houses became a factor in deciding how much and what kind of news and entertainment will reach the public."